



ANNUAL REPORT



2016



2016 was a banner year for Abilene Public Library. After considerable effort on the part of many community members our South Branch Library, which started as a pilot project in January 1998,

was relocated to its new home in the Mall of Abilene. From a cramped 5,600 square feet to a new space of over 20,400 square feet, the new environment is providing Abilene with a state of the art library and community center.

We can never adequately thank all those generous individuals, foundations and businesses who so generously gave the funds to make the new South Branch a reality. Their generosity allowed us to move forward with a project that otherwise would not have gotten off the ground. Spearheaded by our Friends of the Library Task Force, nobly led by Matt Preston, the Friends raised a total of 1.5 Million dollars that paid for the design and remodeling of the space.

First figures tell us that the new branch is going to be a very popular place for the entire community. This year we are focusing on South Branch in our Annual Report. If you have not been to see it, I encourage you to do so, and to make it a regular stop in your weekly routine.

At all our branches we also added a technological service to make printing easier for our patrons. Mobile print service (which requires you download an app for your phone, tablet or laptop) allows you to send print jobs to our library printers from your personal device. A long desired feature, it is proving popular with patrons.

Finally, I am very happy to let you know that our circulation and attendance numbers for FY2016 were up from the previous year. We saw an increase of over 20,000 loans and over 11,000 visitors. We are going to be working hard to keep that upward trend going. Our digital services are expanding and we are increasing programming to serve you. Let us know what else you would like to see going into the future. We love a challenge!

LORI GRUMET,
CITY LIBRARIAN

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE FY2016



351,177
patron visits



5,158
library cards registered



95,349
public computer users



781,198
items circulated



146,172
ebooks & digital downloads



68,085
reference questions
answered



55,211
program attendance



2500+
volunteer hours donated



One of the most laborious and rewarding tasks of FY2016 was the relocation of the South Branch Library from its location on 1401 S. Danville Dr. (5,600 sq ft) to a larger facility at 4310 Buffalo Gap Rd. (20,000+ sq ft), inside the Mall of Abilene. This project was, in large part, thanks to the hard work of the Friends of the Abilene Public Library. This group not only contributed \$540,000.00 to the project, while fundraising \$1 million more, they played a vital role throughout the entire planning, construction, and opening day festivities for the facility. This was a move that did not cost taxpayers.

View a brief timeline of how this new library branch came to be on the next page.



NEW LIBRARY FEATURES

NEW HOURS: Open seven days a week and operating on the Mall of Abilene's holiday schedule, only closing Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and Easter Sunday. That's 362 days to visit your library!

TECHNOLOGY: Houses many televisions for programming, gaming, and promoting library events & services, advanced audio-visual equipment for filming, and a green screen for video production.

MEETING ROOM: Seating 72-people and available for library programming and use by the public. An ideal space for meetings at the mall.

QUIET READING ROOM: A quiet space to read and study, available during library hours.

STUDY ROOMS: Three rooms available for use for studying, reading, or meetings of small groups.

TEEN ROOM: The library's dedicated room for teens with lab computers, cool lounge seating, gaming televisions, a LED Color Wall, and more.

TWO LIBRARY ENTRANCES: Library guests may enter through the exterior entrance from the parking lot or through an interior entrance from inside the mall.

LED COLOR WALLS: Color-changing textured walls are a feature at both the exterior entrance lobby and teen room.

AWE EARLY LITERACY STATIONS: Three additional terminals were added to offer youth more educational gaming opportunities.

SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY PROJECT TIMELINE

ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY 4

January 2015: Initial talks on the expansion of the South Branch Library began with meetings of the Library Advisory Board and the Friends of the Abilene Public Library Board.

February 2015: A resolution was passed by the Library Advisory Board in support of finding a larger space for the South Branch Library.

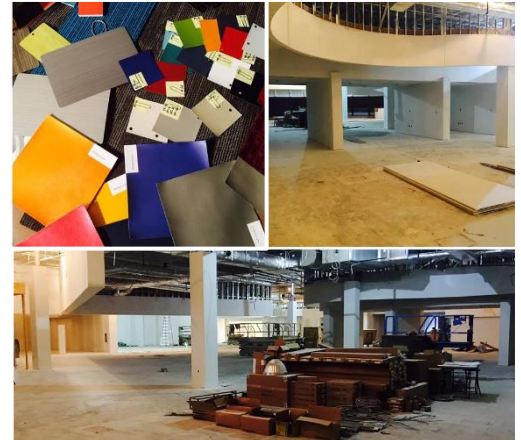
March - April 2015: A Request for Proposals was sent out to locate available spaces on the south side of Abilene, meeting a list of requirements from the library.

May 2015: Submitted proposals were reviewed and a tour of the location at the Mall of Abilene was conducted by library staff and members of the City of Abilene's management team and division directors. William Hidell (Hidell and Associates Architects, Inc.) was selected to head the design of the new facility.

June 2015: A tour of the potential facility was conducted by members of the Friends of the Library Board and the Library Advisory Board. The Library Board then met on June 22 and unanimously voted to seek out the move of the South Branch Library to the Mall of Abilene.

July 2015: The Abilene City Council met on July 23 to hear the library proposal. After initial discussions, Council unanimously voted to sign the lease for the available space inside the Mall of Abilene.

August 2015: Initial meetings were held with the architects to begin work on the library's design. Tours were conducted of four libraries in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, designed by Hidell and Associates Architects, to see what they could offer the new South Branch Library.



REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

"Everything that is good that comes from the public and the private partnering is a win-win. The real win is for the families that use it [future South Branch Library]. We'll have more space, we'll make it a viable place."

- Norm Archibald -

Friends of the Library Members Nancy Brock, Roxanne Klump, and Libby Rankin upon City Council's vote to approve the South Branch Library's relocation. **Photo Courtesy of Joy Bonala, New Director for KACU 89.5 FM**

September - October 2015: Design layouts were created and the community attended design charrettes to provide feedback on what they would like to see at the new facility.

February 2016: Members of the library staff, the Library Advisory Board, the Friends of the Library Board, and City Administration took the inaugural swings of the hammer to start the demolition.

“There’s so much more that we do for the patrons of the library. I’m excited about this opportunity and looking forward to expanding what we have to offer to our citizens.”

- Shane Price, City Councilman -

March - November 2016: Construction on the new facility continued. Fixtures, furniture, and furnishings were selected for the facility while Public Education & Government (PEG) funds were approved for the purposes of funding new technology.

September 21, 2016: The South Branch Library closed its doors at 1401 S. Danville Dr. and staff began work on moving all existing materials to the new location as the construction was completed.

November 14, 2016: A reception was hosted to introduce major donors to the new South Branch Library prior to the grand opening. It was a wonderful way to show off how their contributions were utilized.

November 19, 2016: The South Branch Library officially opened at 10:00AM, with an opening ceremony, entertainment, activities, live performances, refreshments, and more. On this day, more than 3,800 people came out to visit, marking a successful debut to the community. By the end of the month, the location proved to be a success with more than 12,000 people visiting in 12 days.

PATRON REACTION

“I love the new library. It’s even closer to my home than before. I visit the library several times each week, and I’ve been missing not having the South Branch Library when you closed. Now that I see this [new library], I see that it was well worth the wait. It looks lovely, there’s room to sit and relax without being so cramped, and the Quiet Reading Room is a wonderful spot for me to sit and read the Wall Street Journal. It’s all just wonderful. Everyone should come see it.”

- Margaret Chengson -



LIBRARY SERVICES

"The library offers an endless amount of resources for everyone. If you're on a budget, check out books instead of buying, check out movies, instead of renting. No internet, no problem, use a computer at the library. Libraries are a fun and safe environment for the whole family."

- Michelle Martinez -



MESSAGE FROM MARIE NOE, CUSTOMER SERVICES MANAGER & KELSIE WADE, CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN

The library has had great success with its efforts to reach teens. We've conducted several popular programs including a Teen Scene After Hours series that have included a Doctor Who Fandom Party, a Dungeons & Dragons game night, and a Glow Party to name a few. Other teen-targeted programs have included a sewing workshop and the Collecting Commas group, which explores all forms of creative writing during their weekly meetings.

The Main Library has also added programs for tweens with activities that appeal to ages 8-12. The Lego Club and Minecraft Mania programs are among the most popular of these offerings.

For our younger patrons, we continue to offer Preschool Storytime, Toddler Time, Baby Steps, and Lapsit, which have run successfully for years. After seeing the success of the South Branch's Super Storytime, we added that program to our lineup offering an expanded storytime with crafts, games, and other activities. Other programs include the monthly Family Fun, Family Flix, and Science Club.

The Main library has also seen some physical

changes during 2016. The 1st floor has been re-arranged, moving the circulation desk to the front of the building and creating a teen area. The move makes the circulation service point bigger and easier for staff to work with. The teen area features teen-friendly seating and furniture, as well as teen-only computers. It is starting to develop into a welcoming area for teens to gather. This is a work in progress and will continue to develop over the next year.

Another wonderful addition to the exterior of the library is the artwork of a local teen, Lyric K., on the south windows. Her book-themed mural won last year's Window Wrap-Up Art Contest, and were transformed into window clings and applied to the windows. You must come by and see the wonderful results.



Message from Janis C. Test, Information Services Manager

Information Services staff instituted the new mobile printing system that is now available at all branches. With our MobilePrint Service™, patrons can use their personal laptop, mobile devices, or even home computers to print to the library's printers from anywhere. Simply submit documents for printing, visit one of our service desks, pay for the print job/s and pick up the documents. Patrons really love the convenience for them – one Information Services librarian says “I just wanted to give you a heads up on how much the public loves the wireless printing. I may only tell a person a day about it, but they are always excited and open to learning how to use the service. It makes my job a bit easier and the public experience here smoother and more efficient, which in turn makes them happier. Thanks for setting this up. It’s great!”

Programs including tree & lawn care, nutrition, financial planning, tax help, the Affordable Care Act, grandparents parenting and crafts for adults were very well attended. Book-a-Librarian sessions include such things as helping people learn to use their mobile devices, obtaining e-mail accounts, creating resumes, crafting job applications and basic computer skills.

INFORMATION SERVICES QUICK FACTS

- **74** Computer terminals for public access
- **167** Adult programs & Book-A-Librarian sessions offered with 2,954 attendees
- **1,382** Adult Summer Reading Club Participants
- **588** Books-On-Wheels Participants
- **45** Programs with 484 attendees for the Senior Outreach Program to local nursing homes
- **35** Exams proctored
- **16,559** People Helped through the Free Tax Help Programs at the Main Library & Mockingbird Branch Locations



Message from Janet Bailey, Technical Services Manager

Abilene Public Library patrons received **5,436** interlibrary loan books and we lent **2,273** items to other libraries across the world for a grand total of **7,709** transactions. With our efforts, we were able to secure a reimbursement for the city of **\$16,713.48** from the Texas State Library IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) grant.

The library provides many different formats to accommodate the reading, viewing, and listening needs of all people including a digital library that contains over **450,000** items, of which **146,172** items circulated last year. The digital collection rivals our physical holdings and has become 19% of all items circulated, with only children’s books and DVDs ranking higher for percentage of checkouts. This supports the fact that although digital materials are quite popular, traditional printed materials remain relevant in libraries today.

In the last year, the Abilene Public Library acquired aspects of the library’s collection from Dyess Air Force Base. Staff and volunteers repackaged and reclassified these materials to include in the new South Branch Library’s reference, young adult, and children’s collections. The Dyess audiovisual collection doubled the South Branch’s video and audiobook holdings and even introduced a new format called Playaways.

This year, we were also able to streamline patron requests using an online format, which allowed the library system to process more than **800** patron requests for their favorite titles and shows. Such has allowed staff to respond to purchase requests in a timelier manner.



COUNCIL THOUGHTS

"I'd really like to give a shout out to the staff there. I don't think we'd be having this discussion today, I don't think you'd be needing a bigger facility, if it wasn't for the staff there. Tremain and his crew have done an incredible job."

- Bruce Kreitler, City Councilman -

MESSAGE FROM TREMAIN JACKSON, SOUTH BRANCH MANAGER

FY2016 has been an amazing year. We've received great support from the community in attending our programming, Book-A-Librarian sessions were on the rise, our volunteer program has flourished, and we have continued to strengthen our ties with community organizations.

South Branch children's librarian Alyssa Crow also received the distinct honor of being named the 2016 Ricki Brown Librarian of the Year. Having spearheaded the new Literacy Kits collection, made possible by the Texas Book Festival, we offered unique literacy services to households. With 40 kits in grades K-5, they've been in high demand. Due to their success, this program is being replicated at the remaining library branches for 2017.

New programming helped increase attendance including a monthly after hours movie night for teens, an After School Adventure Program for students, and the inclusion of regular teen events. The Summer Reading Club's Paleontology School was also a major draw, bringing in over 500 youth who, by the end of the summer, had the unique opportunity to

register themselves as Junior Paleontologists with the U.S. National Park Service. How awesome is that?

We're also extremely appreciative to the Friends of the Library for their amazing support towards our relocation to the Mall of Abilene. Having committed \$540,000.00, and raising a million more, services will now be offered in a facility four times the space. I am proud of my staff for working hard to make the transition possible, as well as creating a host of new programming to coincide with our current lineup. The future is looking brighter than ever.



Hatching Dino Eggs at Paleontology School

LIBRARY'S VALUE

"The Mockingbird Branch is so close to my home. I love to read and can't buy all the books I want to read. Libraries have value because even the Internet can't provide the knowledge a library can, which is why I'm so glad you're here!"

- Vicki Craig -



MESSAGE FROM ANNE ELLIS, MOCKINGBIRD BRANCH MANAGER

2016 was a wonderful year for the Mockingbird Branch! We had 93,892 visitors and assisted 27,697 people of all ages, with Internet and computer access. Equal access to knowledge and library services is one of the most important roles of our branch.

Adult programs this year included "Resumes 101," "The ABCs of Word," "YMCA Fitness for All," "Genealogy Basics," and "Digital Photography" to name a few. Technology programs were greatly enhanced by the acquisition of a mobile computer lab equipped with nine laptops to offer a hands-on learning environment.

In addition, Mockingbird Branch hosted a six-month PBS documentary film series titled

"Latino Americans," which was well attended.

In March 2016, the Mockingbird Branch added a new monthly program entitled "Super Storytime" which quickly became a hit. Geared towards preschool-aged children, this event offers themed stories and a time for parents and children to bond and practice verbal skills post story session, as well as participate in easy crafts to develop and enhanced fine motor skills.

Last, but not least, the Mockingbird Branch began a partnership with the Texas Health & Human Services Grandparent Volunteer program in 2016. Each volunteer receives once a month child behavior training and is certified to assist in local schools, daycares, and libraries. Finding individuals with training and state certification is a rare treat and one our location did not pass up. Our senior volunteer began in the summer of 2016 and assisted us each week for our main events, providing a cheerful smile, and warm hug to children and young parents alike. This partnership, which incurs no cost to the Abilene Public Library, has been a wonderful addition to our branch and one we hope to continue for years to come.



Joy Harsh Visits with Animals from the Zoo



MESSAGE FROM ANN MOUNT, LIB-CON COORDINATOR

In our third year, we offered more programming and executed 35 events across all branches. New activities included a fan fiction writing workshop, a FaceOff special effects makeup contest, Human Cosplay Chess, an Art Contest, and more. 2,099 people participated with the Cosplay Contest being the most popular. This event saw an increase in participation by 54% with 287 people packing the Main Library auditorium for the costuming entertainment.

Guests purchased 59 official Lib-Con t-shirts, \$147.00 was generated for the Friends of the Library from the popular vendor stations, volunteers contributed more than 32 hours of service, and we look forward to keeping this event growing in the future. For more information about Lib-Con, visit our website online at

www.abilenetx.com/apl/libcon.

2016 SUMMER READING CLUB OVERVIEW

The Abilene Public Library is the place to be when summer strikes. As the community looks for cost-effective entertainment, the library is always a great place to go. Kids and teens enjoyed a summer of dinosaur themed fun with a wealth of activities including Zoo Lady visits, Paleontology School, crafting & gaming sessions, movie events, Young Audiences performances, and more. 4,630 kids participated in 2016 and 923 teens signed up for the fun as well. Adults enjoyed a special fitness themed summer full of special health programs including Zumba classes, Baby & Me Yoga, disc golf, and more. This year also featured a raffle ticket prize drawing that generated over 1,300 returned tickets from participating adults. With great prizes offered for all ages, and a grand prize of an iPad mini to a lucky teen and adult reading club member, summer at your Abilene Public Library continues to be a major community attraction!

SUMMER READING CLUB STATS

- 4,630 Kids' Reading Club Participants
- 223 Kids' Programs
- 11,463 Kids' Program Attendance
- 923 Teen Reading Club Participants
- 42 Teen Programs
- 439 Teen Program Attendance
- 1,300+ Adult Raffle Tickets Submitted



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY & ADVISORY BOARD

ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY 11



The Friends of the Library is a volunteer group that provides support to the Abilene Public Library system. This dedicated group of volunteers remains one of the most active and successful Friends groups around! Having led the charge for the addition of the Mockingbird Branch Library in 2009, they made magic happen once again by raising the funds needed to relocate the South Branch Library to the Mall of Abilene. They did so with minimal cost to taxpayers. Through their tireless work and endless drive, Abilene's Friends of the Library have truly provided the community with amazing contributions to help keep Abilene's libraries relevant and popular for all who reside in the area. If you wish to become a member, feel free to visit their website online at www.abilenetx.com/apl/Friends.



Top Left: Greg Jaklewicz attending the Annual Book Sale.

Top Right: Leila Meacham receives the 2016 A.C. Greene Award from Glenn Dromgoole.

Bottom: Garrett Smith receives the 2016 Volunteer of the Year Award, with Carrie Casada & Matt Preston.

In regards to the Friends of the Library's contribution to the South Branch Library Project

"If there's a group that starts out with the words 'Friends of,' you've got some real friends. I will personally commend the Friends of the Library for being a group that is willing to do what it takes to provide private money to bring to the table and say to the city, 'If you'll partner with us, we'll bring this amount of money.'"

- Norm Archibald, Abilene Mayor -



Top: Emerald Cassidy Serving at Culinary Cuisine Luncheon.



Right: Dyess Volunteers at the Book Sale. **Bottom:** Annual Friends Meeting.



LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

The Abilene Public Library Advisory Board serves as the liaison between Library Administration and City Council. Members work to help determine the financial needs of the library system, advises library administration concerning policies affecting the general public, helps to guide direction of the library in the future, and more.

2016 BOARD MEMBERS

Rob Carleton, Chair
Debbie Lillick, Vice-Chair
Clint Buck
Carrie Casada
Michael Carrisalez
Stan Chapman

Tiffany Fink
Patricia Nail
Dennis Regan
Ginna Sadler
Joe Specht

LIBRARY LOCATIONS & HOURS OF OPERATION

OUR MISSION



The mission of the Abilene Public Library is to provide materials, services, and programs to help community residents obtain information which meets their personal, educational, professional, and recreational needs.

Visit us online at
www.abilenetx.com/apl



MAIN LIBRARY

202 Cedar St.

Abilene, TX 79601 | PH: 325-677-2474

HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY	9AM - 9PM
TUESDAY	9AM - 9PM
WEDNESDAY	9AM - 6PM
THURSDAY	9AM - 9PM
FRIDAY	9AM - 6PM
SATURDAY	9AM - 6PM
SUNDAY	CLOSED

HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY	10AM - 9PM
TUESDAY	10AM - 9PM
WEDNESDAY	10AM - 6PM
THURSDAY	10AM - 9PM
FRIDAY	10AM - 6PM
SATURDAY	10AM - 6PM
SUNDAY	1PM - 6PM



SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY

4310 Buffalo Gap Rd.

Abilene, TX 79606 | PH: 325-698-7565



MOCKINGBIRD BRANCH LIBRARY

1326 N. Mockingbird Ln.

Abilene, TX 79603 | PH: 325-437-7323

HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY	9AM - 9PM
TUESDAY	9AM - 9PM
WEDNESDAY	9AM - 6PM
THURSDAY	9AM - 9PM
FRIDAY	9AM - 6PM
SATURDAY	9AM - 6PM
SUNDAY	CLOSED

"Efficient and friendly librarians. Wonderful children's division. From a very reliable genealogy patron – an outstanding genealogy division. I enjoy the eBooks I've borrowed. Guess what? They return themselves! My grandchildren love it when they visit. I have a stack of books waiting for them. Go visit one of our libraries in Abilene." - **Vonnie Perry, Retired Librarian & Teacher** -